

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ADP-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

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INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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1. WESTERN TRADE UNION LEADERS FROM FRG (VETTER), UK (FEATHER), SWEDEN (GEIJER) MET WITH EASTERN LABOR REPS FROM USSR (SHELEPIN), GDR (BEYREUTHER), AND HUNGARY (GASPAR) IN VIENNA JULY 28-29 IN FIRST SUCH E-W TRADE UNION DIALOGUE SPECIFICALLY INTENDED TO DISCUSS POTENTIAL AREAS OF FUTURE RELATIONSHIPS. IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE PARTICIPANTS AGREED TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY OF E-W TRADE UNION CONFERENCE NEXT JANUARY WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE. AUSTRIAN TRADE UNION FED (ATUF) OFFERED SIMPLY TO HOST MEETING (SIMILAR TO GOA ROLE IN MBFR) BUT ASSUMED CHAIRMANSHIP (BENYA WITH STROER AS ALTERNATE) AFTER WESTERN REPS ACCEPTED

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SHELEPIN'S PROPOSAL TO THAT EFFECT.

2. WESTERN REPS WERE MORE CAUTIOUS REGARDING PARTICIPATION AND AGENDA FOR JANUARY 1974 CONFERENCE THAN EASTERN SPOKESMAN SHELEPIN. DGB'S VETTER POINTED OUT THAT ICFTU'S EUROPEAN MEMBERS WILL BE INFORMED OF VIENNA EXPLORATORY TALKS BUT EACH NATIONAL CENTER WILL REACH OWN DECISION RE CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE. HE ADDED THAT NON-ICFTU MEMBERS, PRESUMABLY CGIL AND CGT, COULD ALSO ATTEND CONFERENCE BUT THAT REPS FROM GREECE, PORTUGAL AND SPAIN WOULD NOT BE INVITED. WESTERN PARTICIPANTS EMPHASIZED THAT JANUARY 1974 CONFERENCE CAN ONLY SUCCEED IF DIFFERENCES IN POLITICAL SYSTEMS ARE RESPECTED AND AGENDA LIMITED TO LABOR-MANPOWER ISSUES FALLING PROPERLY IN TRADE UNION DOMAIN. SHELEPIN ON OTHER HAND STATED THAT WORKERS' STRUGGLE AGAINST MULTINATIONALS AND INTERNATIONAL MONOPOLIES AS WELL AS NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT ON WORKERS SHOULD HAVE PRIORITY ON CONFERENCE AGENDA.

3. PARALLELISM BETWEEN GOVERNMENTAL AND TRADE UNION MOVES TOWARD EUROPEAN COOPERATION WERE INTENTIONALLY HIGHLIGHTED. VETTER STATED THAT BASIS FOR WEEKEND VIENNA MEETING WAS LAID AT 1971 TRADE UNION CONVENTION IN HELSINKI. ATUF REP STROER REMARKED THAT TRADE UNIONS HAVE NO INTENTION TO LAG BEHIND GOVERNMENTS IN GENERAL RELAXATION OF TENSIONS.

4. ADDRESSEE POSTS WHOSE REPS ATTENDED THIS GATHERING MAY BE ABLE TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFO AND REACTIONS.MOWINCKEL

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